

CARVER BIRTHPLACE
ASSOCIATION



SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Carver Day
- Prairie Day
- National Public Lands Day

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CARVER CONNECTION

SPRING / SUMMER 2013

Walk with a Doc



On March 9th, 54 participants joined a park ranger and local doctors at George Washington Carver National Monument for the park's first **"Walk with a Doc"** program.

This new program was created to support and encourage community health and well-being. The three doctors were from Freeman Hospital in Joplin, MO who came out to walk and answer health related questions from the participants. One goal of this new program was to reduce the patient/doctor barriers found in hospitals and medical centers. Everyone on the walk was literally on equal footing; no needles, medical

equipment, charts, or scales were present. The doctors brought only their medical knowledge and desire to support people to make healthy lifestyle choices and encourage walking as part of a fitness regimen.

This special program is part of the National Park Service's "A Call to Action" centennial campaign to connect the American people to their parks. It was created in response to the Call to Action #6: **"Take a Hike and Call Me in the Morning."** Participants were able to learn more about health issues, improve fitness, and enjoy their national park on this one mile walk.

Superintendent's Update

By James Heaney, Superintendent
George Washington Carver National Monument



"There is no short cut to Achievement. Life requires thorough Preparation—vener is n't worth Anything."

G.W. Carver

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the staff at the George Washington Carver National Monument, I wish to invite you, your friends and family, to the 70th Carver Day celebration at the park on July 13, 2013 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Carver Day celebrates not only the life and achievements of George Washington Carver, but also the establishment of the park on July 14, 1943, only seven months after Carver's death that same year. The birthplace of the distinguished scientist, educator and humanitarian is the first National Park dedicated to an African American. Typically 700-1200 visitors come to the park to honor Carver's legacy on this day.

The special guest speaker for this year is Dr. Linda Edwards, whose 1981 biography *George Washington Carver, Scientist and Symbol* is a milestone in Carver scholarship. Dr. Edwards conducted much of her research at the park as well as at Tuskegee University, and her work interprets the myths and facts surrounding this complex figure, and explores Carver as a remarkable and enduring symbol of black achievement in a racially divided America.

Additional speakers include Architectural Historian Deb Sheals and Architect Angie Geist Gaebler, who along with team members from Susan Richard Johnson and Associates, Inc. produced an intriguing study of the 1872 Neosho Colored School where Carver and scores of African Americans received an education. This study is helping the park and CBA in our efforts to preserve and restore this rare resource that speaks to the black struggle for an education.

Carver Day always features gospel and grassroots music artists who celebrate Carver's love of music. This year marks the return of the Sensational Wonders from Kansas City. Blues, jazz and folk music troubadour Lem Sheppard joins us, as well as many church choirs from throughout the region.

Carver Day is also a time for kids to explore the park, and connect to the child who was born here about 150 years ago. There will be peanut milk demonstrations, guided tours, Junior Ranger activities, and storyteller Loretta Washington.

The Diamond Lions Club will be selling food concessions to benefit the park, the Carver Birthplace Association and Lions Club International.

The celebration perfectly complements the National Park Service's "A Call to Action" strategic plan, which charts a path towards the 2016 Centennial of the National Park Service. One action concept, "History Lesson," showcases the meaning of parks to new audiences and provides communities an opportunity to connect to their heritage.

Carver Day celebrates the African American experience through speakers, storytelling, music and educational programs.

In keeping with Carver's legacy of accessible and affordable education, Carver Day, like all of our programs, is free of charge. More details will be coming so stay glued to the Carver Birthplace Association's and the park's Facebook pages.

We hope to see you at the park soon, and as always, thank you for your support!



2013 Art & Essay

On Saturday, March 30th, George Washington Carver National Monument hosted approximately 225 people at a ceremony awarding certificates, ribbons, and trophies to regional fourth graders in recognition of their work in a park sponsored **Art & Essay** contest.

Students spent weeks preparing their entries, using creative writing and artistic expression to address the theme: "If I could spend the day with George Washington Carver.." Nearly 350 essays and 230 art projects were entered, representing 36 schools and approximately 70 classrooms.

Missouri Southern State University's Department of Teacher Education partnered with the National Park Service and Carver Birthplace Association to carry out Art & Essay. Volunteers in Parks supported every aspect of the program. Partners and VIPs provided program logistics, presentations to classrooms, essay judging, certificate printing, art show preparation and judging, awards, and refreshments.

The audience was treated to refreshments and a photo session to celebrate the accomplishments of the hard working students and teachers.

Art in the Park at George Washington Carver National Monument



On Saturday, April 27, the park hosted **Art in the Park**. This annual event celebrates Carver's lifelong love of art, which started on the Moses Carver farm. He was inspired by the natural environment and gained a sense of serenity and personal rejuvenation from his artistic work. Despite the rainy conditions and cooler temperatures (the event was moved inside), approximately 200 visitors attended and participated in various art workshops, which included pastels, nature frames, clay, silk painting, and gouache watercolors. The "budding artists" section featured natural dyes, painting color swatches, rock painting, and other children activities.

Missouri artist and author, **Lowell Davis**, was the special guest and presented a talk on his work. Mr. Davis has been referred to as the "Norman Rockwell of Rural Art," and his painting reflects this style. His work as an artist has included cartoons, paintings, sculptures, publications, and illustrations.

Park rangers also presented the program, "Expressions of the Soul," featuring Carver's artistic creations including some of his original artwork on display in the museum.

Art in the Park is designed to connect people to their local national parks. A *Call to Action Strategic Plan* charts a path towards the 2016 centennial of the National Park Service, and one action concept, **Arts Afire**, expanded the meaning of parks to new audiences through the visual arts.

Board of Directors News



Greetings CBA members!

These are exciting times for CBA! I'm pleased to announce the promotion of our Business Manager, Ann McCormick, to the position of Director and Business Manager of CBA. This position entails full-time work for Ann, and we are very lucky to have her as our CBA employee. Other exciting news is the progress we are making on our project to restore and develop the 1872 Neosho Colored School. Further details are contained in this newly reformatted *Carver Connection*. With summer upon us, volunteer opportunities abound with Carver Day, July 13th, coming. Plans are for a CBA booth on the park grounds to promote CBA and encourage membership by park visitors who would like to support our mission. Ann is working up the schedule for the booth that day, so please let her know if you are interested. Otherwise, just drop by and visit with us while you are at the park on Carver Day. In a spare moment, check out our website:

<http://www.carverbirthplaceassoc.org>

to see recent changes and additions – postings of past CBA newsletters are there for your perusal.

Thanks for your support of CBA and we'll see you at the park!
Jodie Murray Burns, CBA Board Chair

Chair

Jodie Murray Burns, *Bentonville, AR*

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Larry Swift, CPA, *Neosho, MO*

CBA Director/Business Manager

Ann McCormick

Funded By:
Book Store Sales
Memberships and Donations
Awarded Grants

"Education is the
key to unlock the
golden door of
freedom."

G. W. Carver

Calendar of Activities - July-September 2013

JULY

July 5, 6 & 7 1 p.m.

THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

In 1941, with the world at war, a select group of African Americans made their way to Tuskegee, Alabama, with dreams of becoming the first black fighter pilots in the country. This documentary explores the story of the Tuskegee Airmen.

July 13 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

CARVER DAY CELEBRATION

There will be something for everyone at this special event commemorating the 1943 establishment of George Washington Carver National Monument. Activities are scheduled throughout the day, including storytelling, exhibitors, musical performances, guided tours, educational programs, junior ranger station, and much more.

July 19, 20 & 21 1 p.m.

THE LIFE AND THE LEGACY, BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

Through narration and re-enactment, this 30-minute film traces the legacy of Booker T. Washington and the founding of Tuskegee Institute.

July 26, 27 & 28 1 p.m.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL ON WHEELS

The Jesup Wagon, also known as the Agricultural School on Wheels, carried George Washington Carver's bulletins in addition to many other useful supplies to the southern farmers. A park ranger will share the story of this fascinating teaching tool.

AUGUST

August 2, 3 & 4 1 p.m.

A GENIUS REMEMBERED, GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

This 30-minute film explores the life of George Washington Carver, told by people who actually knew him and by others whose work was influenced by his great legacy.

August 9, 10 & 11 1 p.m.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER: STRUGGLE FOR EDUCATION IN A SEGREGATED AMERICA

Utilizing photographs and artwork, this program focuses on Carver's years pursuing education despite racial segregation and limited opportunities.

August 16, 17 & 18 1 p.m.

EXPRESSIONS OF THE SOUL

George Washington Carver was a talented artist using flowering plants and landscapes as his favorite subjects to draw or paint. The program looks more closely at Carver the artist and how his artistry brought joy to his life.

August 23, 24 & 25 1 p.m.

CARVER LABORATORY DEMONSTRATIONS

Calling all young scientists! A park ranger will lead you in a variety of demonstrations recreating Carver's plant byproducts in the science classroom.

August 29 & 31 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

OLD-FASHIONED TOYS & GAMES

Playtime was a simple affair in the 19th century, as children invented their own games or played with homemade toys. Experience the joy of playing with some old-fashioned toys and games. This is a self-guided activity just outside the visitor center.

SEPTEMBER

September 1 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

OLD-FASHIONED TOYS & GAMES

Playtime was a simple affair in the 19th century, as children invented their own games or played with homemade toys. Experience the joy of playing with some old-fashioned toys and games. This is a self-guided activity just outside the visitor center.

September 7 & 8 1 p.m.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER AN UNCOMMON WAY

This 50-minute film documentary produced by Franklin Springs Family Media chronicles Carver's amazing journey from seeking an education to becoming a household name.

September 14 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

PRAIRIE DAY CELEBRATION

Come and celebrate life on the prairie during the 19th century. Musical entertainment, nature exhibits and a variety of living history demonstrations are the highlights of the event. Visitors are invited to dip candles, churn butter, tour the prairie in a horse-drawn wagon, and much more!

September 21 & 22 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

OLD-FASHIONED LAUNDRY

Visit the 1881 Moses Carver house and try your hand at washing laundry the way George did in the late 1800s. This common chore helped him pay his way through school. Tour the Moses Carver house and become acquainted with life in the 19th century while learning more about George Washington Carver.

September 28 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve our public lands. Park staff have identified projects where volunteers can lend a hand. Please contact the park for more information.

2013 George Washington Carver Academic Scholarship

The George Washington Carver Birthplace Association is pleased to announce that Ms. Jerri Lynn Henry, from Southwest High School in Washburn, Missouri, has been chosen for the 2013 George Washington Carver Academic Scholarship.

Jerri Lynn came highly recommended by her teachers and members of her community. She was raised on the family farm, where hard work and challenge is part of everyday life. She has excelled in academics, athletics, and has been an exceptional leader in FFA. Jerri is a volunteer at the Barry County Soil and Water Conservation District. She plans to major in Environmental Sciences at Missouri State University and pursue a career in agriculture. Her ideal job would be with the Soil and Water Conservation District or Natural Resources Conservation Service.



The George Washington Carver scholarship is a onetime award in the amount of \$500.00 for the academic year. It is awarded yearly to a local graduating high school senior, or local home school student receiving a GED certificate. Criteria for determining the award recipient includes academic achievement, community involvement and need. Students must plan to attend Iowa State University, Tuskegee University, Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, or an accredited college within a 100 mile radius of Diamond, Missouri, site of the George Washington Carver National Monument. Chosen area of study must include one of the following: Science, Art, Agriculture, Music, or Education.

Director's Update

Throughout our lives, each of us builds a reputation through our words and works. We become known for the jobs we hold, the hobbies we have, and the causes we support. When I am out in the community visiting businesses, schools, or civic organizations, I am proud to wear the badge of the Carver Birthplace Association. I try to begin every conversation with, "Have you been to George Washington Carver Monument, lately?" Those words open the door to a multitude of information about the park and CBA.

The Carver Birthplace Association assists the National Park Service in its mission to preserve and protect the George Washington Carver National Monument by raising funds and public awareness, and providing volunteers for needed projects. Each year the Park staff develops an annual needs list of projects for which CBA provides funding. CBA in turn, is funded by your membership dues, gift shop sales, and donations. If you would like to become more involved as a member, a volunteer, or a benefactor, your contribution is very important to CBA and the GWCNM mission. You can help in our efforts, by allowing us to email your newsletter. If you would like future newsletters emailed to you, please make sure I have your current email address on file.

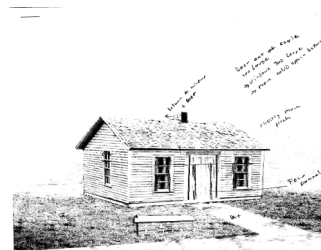
As you can see by all of the activities, 2013 has been a very exciting year for CBA. I am privileged to be a part of the Carver Birthplace Association and George Washington Carver National Monument.

Sincerely,

Ann McCormick

1872 Neosho Colored School

The 1872 Neosho Colored School, located at 639 Young Street, Neosho, MO, is owned by the Carver Birthplace Association (CBA), the park's Friends Group. The structure served as the first school George Washington Carver attended in his quest for education, and is a rare tangible resource connecting Carver with his early years. CBA acquired the property in 2004 with the original intention of donating the structure. As an alternative, GWCNM and CBA are partnering to provide for the restoration of the facility to fulfill a public purpose of support.



In the summer of 2012, GWCNM entered into a five-year cooperative agreement with CBA to carry out non-construction tasks associated with research, planning, and rehabilitation of the school. A Historic Structure Report completed in August 2012 documented the historic integrity of the structure and provided treatment recommendations for restoration. A nomination to the National Register of Historic Places is expected to be completed by January 2014. Representatives from the State Historic Preservation Office visited the site in March 2013.

Two wayside exhibits are ready for installation on the property to interpret young Carver's connection with the school, significant relationships formed during this time, and the struggles faced by African Americans in their pursuit of education and equality.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Select One:

- ☐ Student (\$15.00)
- ☐ Senior Adult: Age 62+ (\$15.00)
- ☐ Individual (\$35.00)
- ☐ Family: In Same Household (\$65.00)

Method of Payment

- ☐ Check
- ☐ Visa
- ☐ MasterCard
- ☐ American Express

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Credit Card # _____

Exp. date _____

Signature _____

Carver Birthplace Association

Phone: 417 325-4151

Fax: 417 325-4231

E-mail: cba.volunteers@gmail.com

Benefits of Yearly Membership

Your contributions are tax deductible

10% off on Gift Shop Purchases

Carver Connection Newsletters

Invitations to Special Events

Recognition in Park Publications

Volunteer Opportunities:
Park Activities
Committees
Meetings & Elections
Membership Card



Carver Birthplace Association

**George Washington Carver NM
5646 Carver Road
Diamond, MO 64840**

Phone: 417-325-4151

Fax: 417 325-4231

cba.volunteers@gmail.com

<http://www.carverbirthplaceassoc.org>

The Mission

**of the Carver Birthplace Association
is to support the Historical, Scientific,
Educational and Interpretive Activities of
the National Park Service at the
George Washington Carver
National Monument.**

For more Information contact the
Park at 417 325-4151 or visit

www.nps.gov/gwca

The Park is located 2 miles
West of Diamond, Missouri on
Hwy V, then 1/2 mile south on
Carver Road.